SONIC THE HEDGEHOG | 285

PANIC IN THE SKY - PART 2 OF 4

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures—a world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!

CHARACTER SELECT

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
WORLD HERO

CHIP/LIGHT GAIA
(CURRENTLY KIDNAPPED)
WORLD RESTORING SPIRIT

GEMERL
ADVANCED BATTLE ANDROID

DR. EGGMAN
MAD GENIUS

THE STORY SO FAR...

EVIL AMBUSH

Sonic and his friends, the Freedom Fighters, were on the verge of fixing their shattered planet... but then Dr. Eggman struck with his master plan!

Eggman sent his forces to invade Mobotropolis and steal the Chaos Emeralds and Gaia Keys. Metal Sonic escaped with the mystical items while the other villains distracted the city's protector, Gemerl.

Meanwhile, the vicious program Phage invaded the systems of the Freedom Fighters' flying base, the Sky Patrol. She baited Nicole into using the power of the Red Star Ring for too long, until Nicole's hand-held overheated.

With Nicole preoccupied, the Battle Bird Armada ambushed the weakened Sky Patrol, blowing up its engines and kidnapping Chip.

The Sky Patrol is now in freefall, with Sonic and the Freedom Fighters falling with it...

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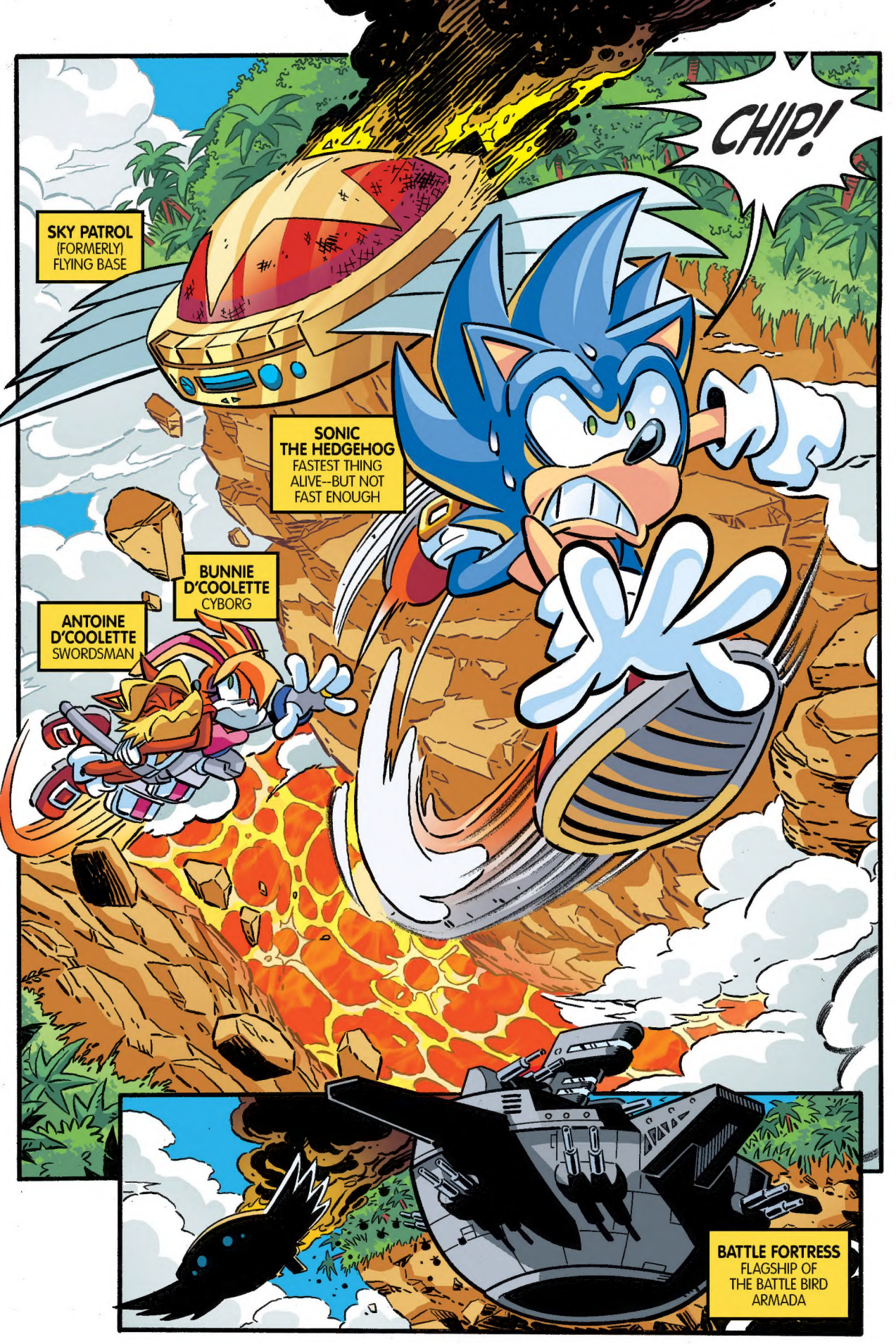
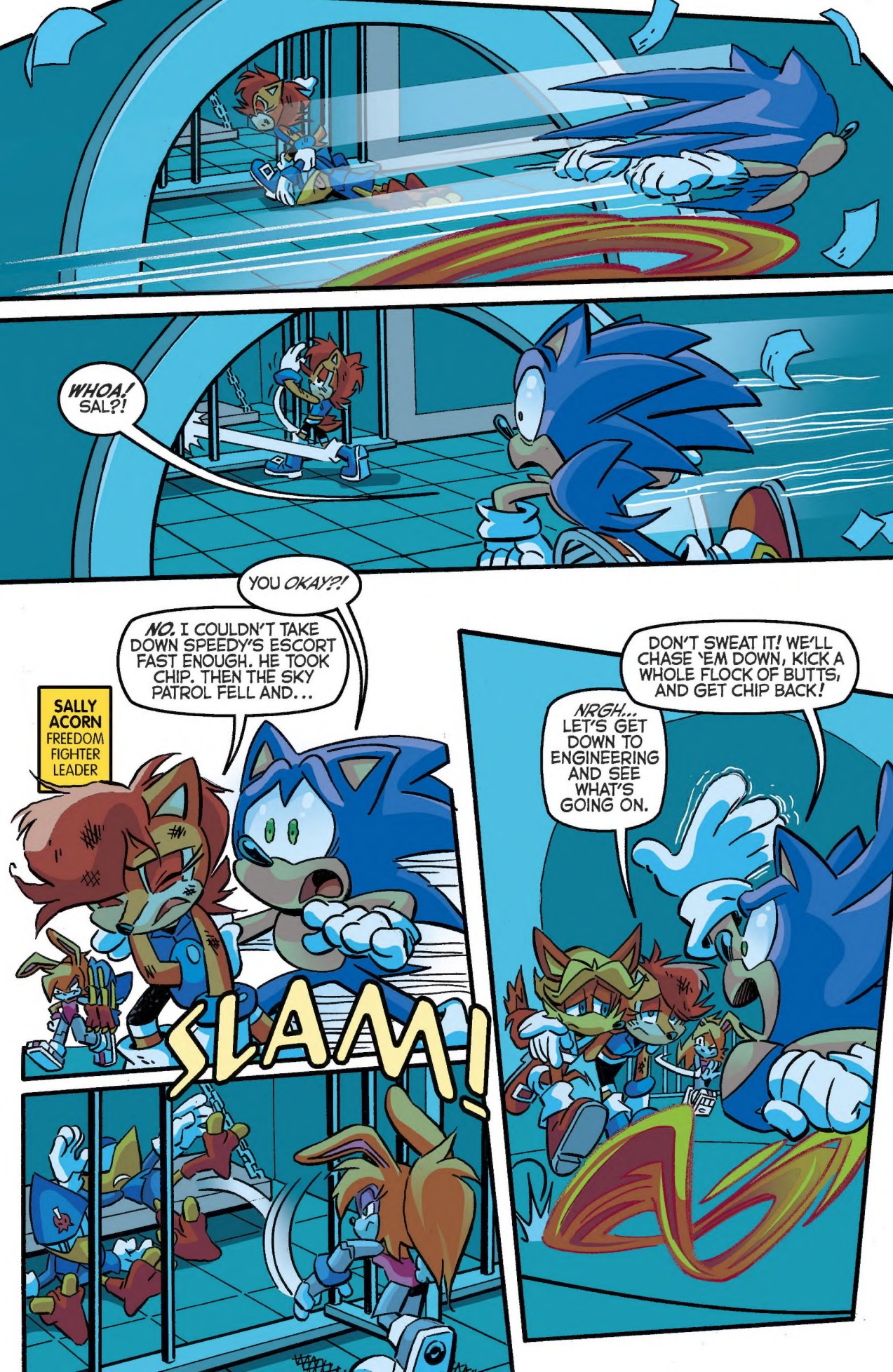
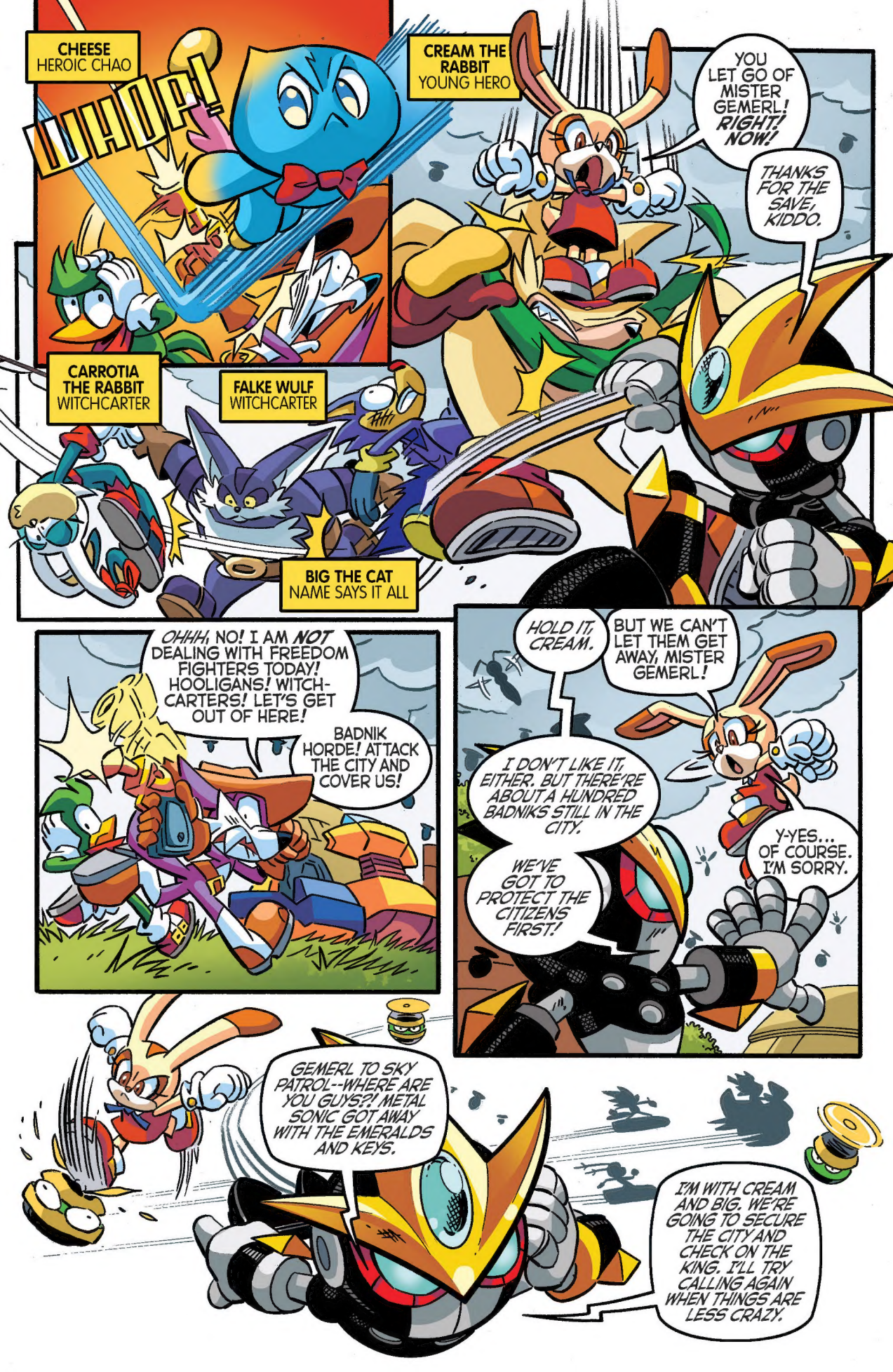

CHIP!
SKY PATROL (FORMERLY) FLYING BASE
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG FASTEST THING ALIVE--BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH
BUNNIE D'COOLETTE CYBORG
ANTOINE D'COOLETTE SWORDSMAN
BATTLE FORTRESS FLAGSHIP OF THE BATTLE BIRD ARMADA

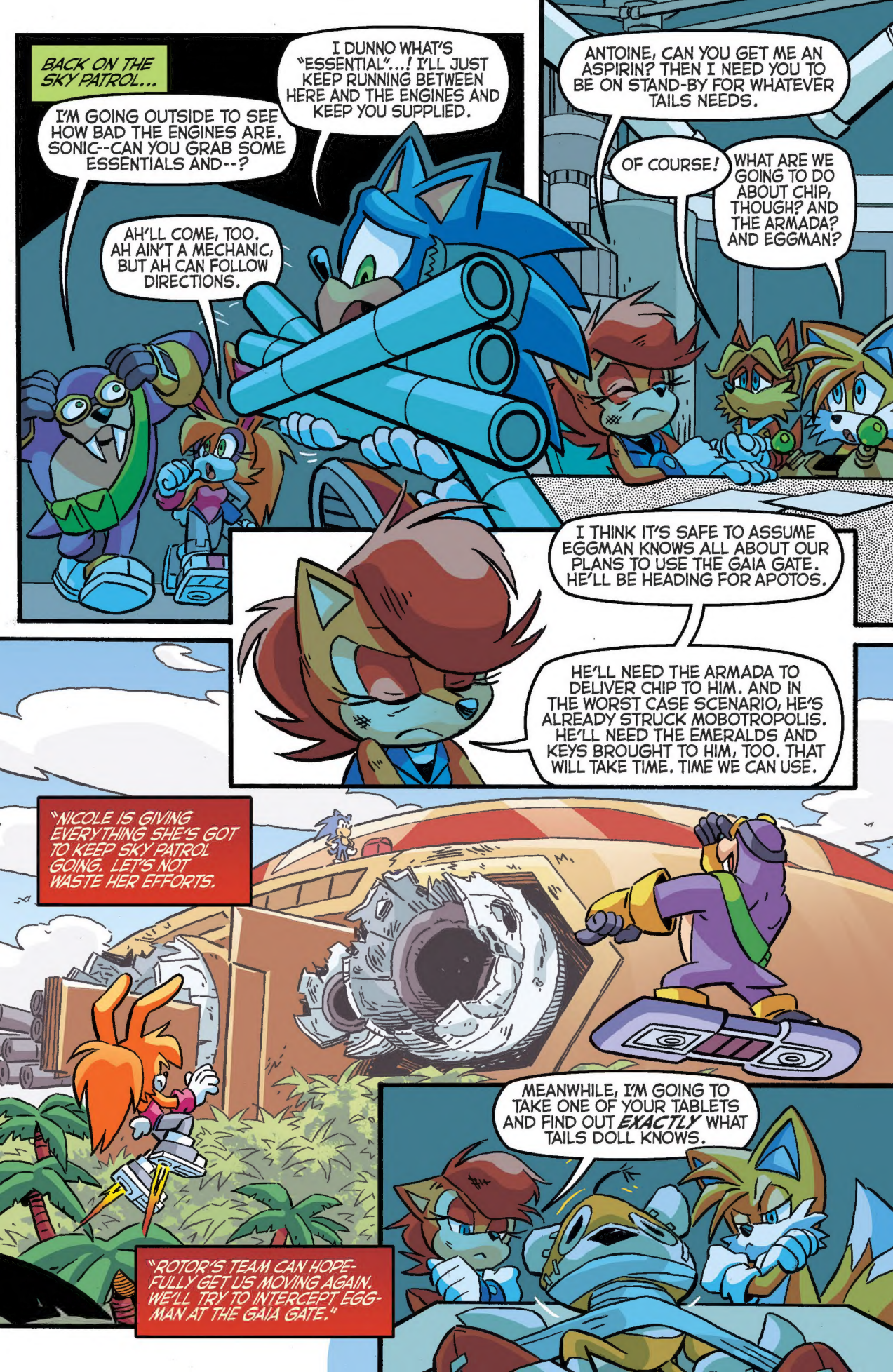
ABOARD THE BATTLE FORTRESS...
SHOULDN'T WE CLOSE IN FOR THE KILL, FATHER?
NOTHING WOULD PLEASE ME MORE, BUT DR. EGGMAN HAS US ON A STRICT TIMETABLE.
BATTLE KUKKU XV LEADER OF THE ARMADA
CHIP LIGHT GAIA SPIRIT
SPEEDY BATTLE KUKKU XVI
NO! NO! SONIC! EVERY-BODY!
HURRY! WE'VE GOTTA--!
HOLD ON! AH CAN'T--!
WE ARE ALL FALLING TO OUR DOOM!
CLUNK!
BWOOSH!
SO... NO DOOM, THEN?
SWEET! LOOKS LIKE OUR TECH GENIUSES GOT US AIR-BORNE AGAIN! LET'S CHECK ON EVERYONE, AND THEN CATCH US UP TO THOSE FEATHER-BRAINS!

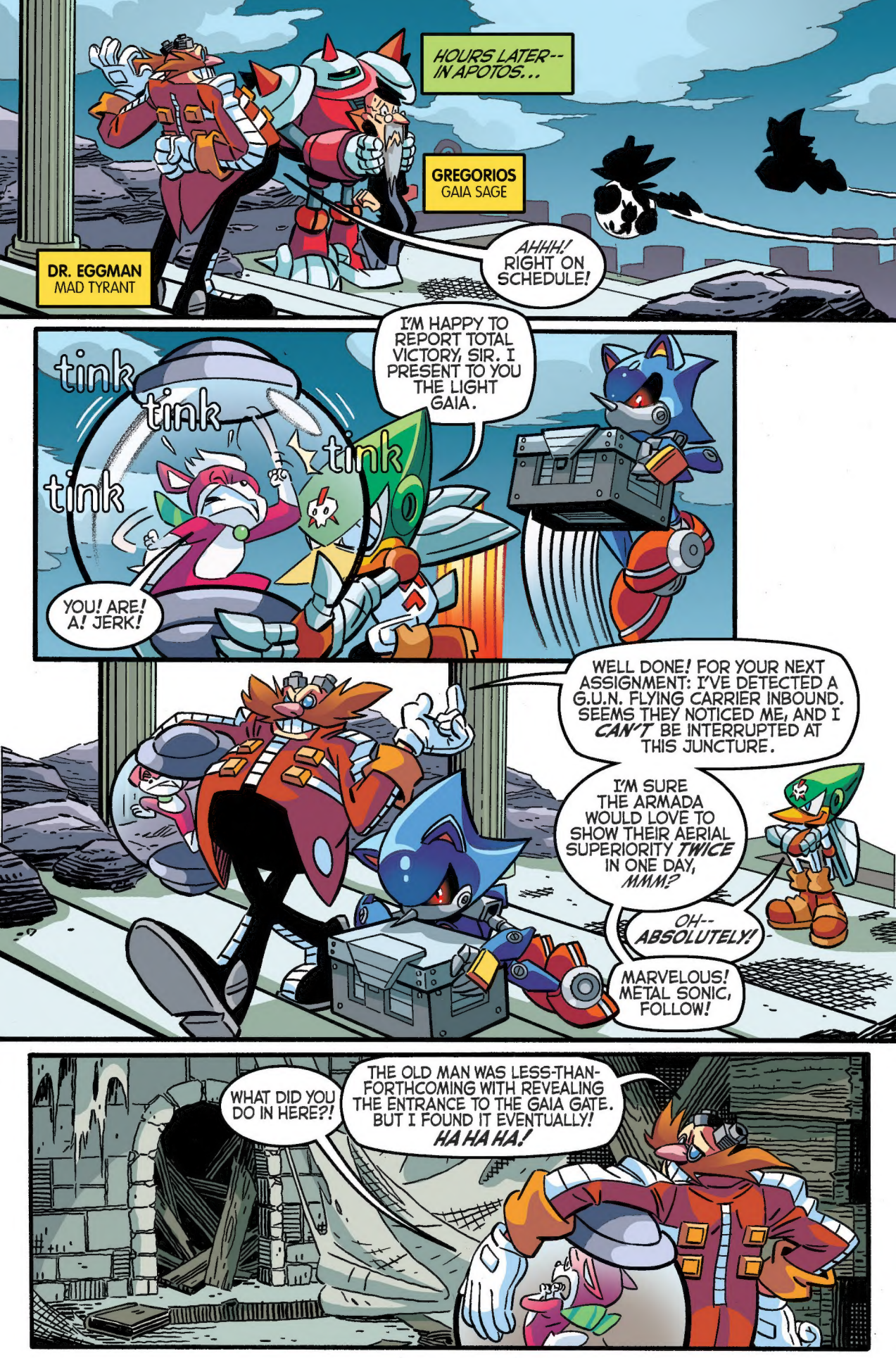

WHOA! SAL?!
YOU OKAY?!
NO. I COULDN'T TAKE DOWN SPEEDY'S ESCORT FAST ENOUGH. HE TOOK CHIP. THEN THE SKY PATROL FELL AND...
SALLY ACORN FREEDOM FIGHTER LEADER
SLAM!
DON'T SWEAT IT! WE'LL CHASE 'EM DOWN, KICK A WHOLE FLOCK OF BUTTS, AND GET CHIP BACK!
NRGH... LET'S GET DOWN TO ENGINEERING AND SEE WHAT'S GOING ON.

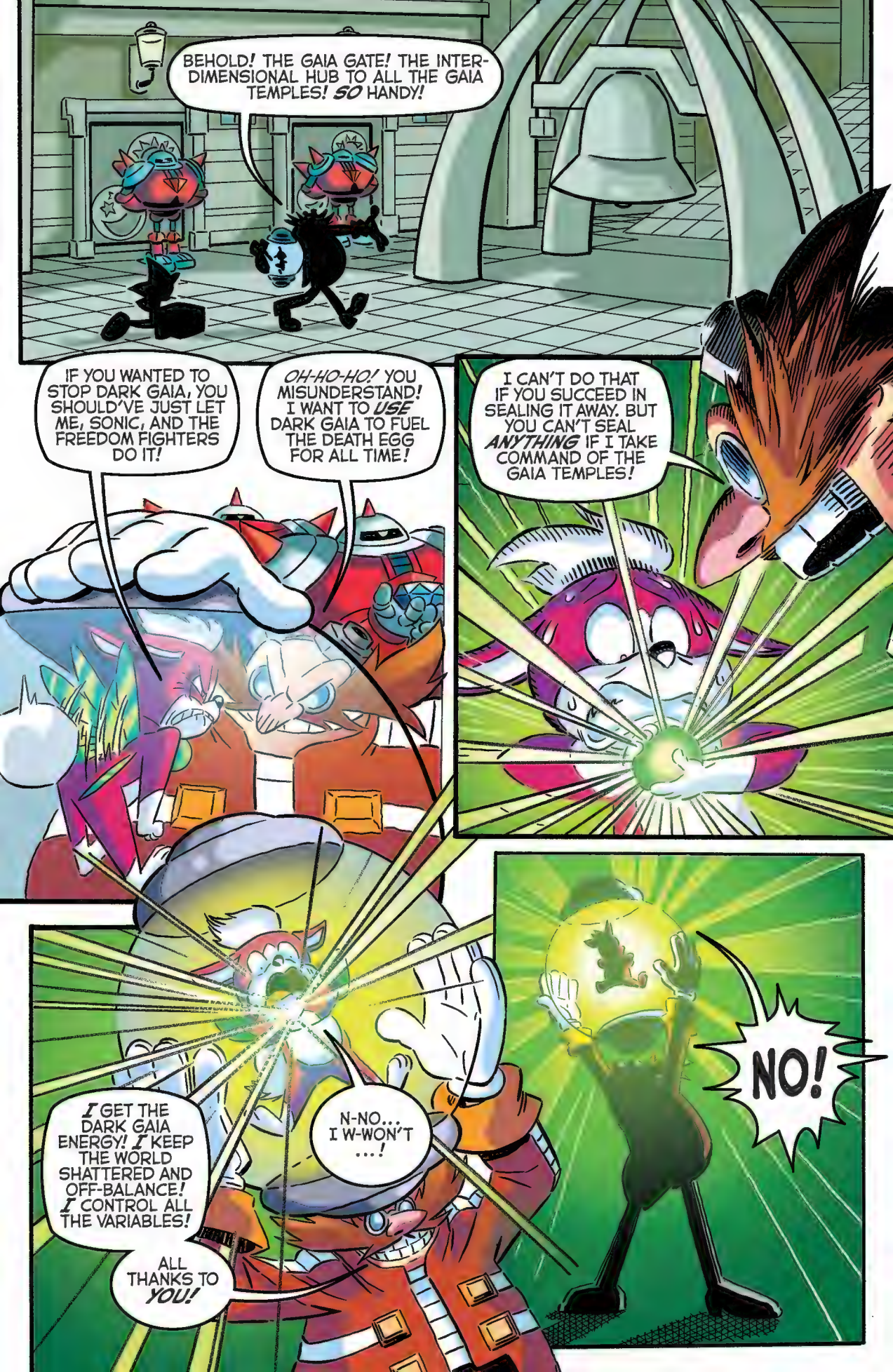
OMOCHAO
ROBO-CHAO
AND... UH... I NEED ANOTHER ENERGY CELL! FETCH, T-PUP!
ROTOR THE WALRUS
MECHANIC
T-PUP
ROBO-DOG
IS EVERY-ONE OKAY DOWN HERE?
NO! I'VE JUST STARTED DAMAGE CONTROL! WE'RE BANGED UP, I'VE GOT NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON, AND NICOLE...!
NICOLE...?
I-I'M SORRY, SALLY. SHE ASKED ME FOR THE RED STAR RING. JUST LIKE LAST TIME! I...I DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD...
MILES "TAILS" PROWER
YOUNG GENIUS

YOW!
I am here. Sky Patrol's systems are a mess. Doing what I can. Thrusters online at least. Need to concentrate. Take care.
SHRRK
OKAY...SO WE'RE AIRBORNE AND STABLE, THANKS TO NICOLE. WHAT ABOUT THE ENGINES?
AH SAW 'EM WHILE WE WERE OUTSIDE. THE ARMADA BLEW THEM UP.
I'LL HELP NICOLE GET OUR SYSTEMS BACK ONLINE. EVERYTHING'S IN SUCH BAD SHAPE, WHERE SHOULD I START?
LONG-RANGE COMMUNICATIONS. EGGMAN HAD TAILS DOLL SPYING ON US THIS WHOLE TIME. HE'LL KNOW WHERE WE WERE HIDING THE CHAOS EMERALDS AND GAIA KEYS.
WE'VE GOT TO WARN MY FATHER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE--
"--IF IT ISN'T ALREADY TOO LATE."
MOBOTROPOLIS, WESTSIDE ISLAND...
BEARENGER THE GRIZZLY WITCHCARTER
SOK!
HE'S KINDA BEATING US UP. LIKE... ALL OF US.
WE WERE ONLY STALLING HIM SO METAL SONIC COULD ESCAPE. I'LL BLAST ONE OF HIS JOINTS, THEN WE'LL LET THE BADNIKS FINISH HIM OFF.
NACK THE WEASEL HOOLIGAN
BARK THE POLAR BEAR HOOLIGAN
GEMERL ADVANCED BATTLE ROBOT
BEAN THE DUCK HOOLIGAN


CHEESE
HEROIC CHAO
WHOP!
CREAM THE RABBIT
YOUNG HERO
YOU LET GO OF MISTER GEMERL! RIGHT! NOW!
THANKS FOR THE SAVE, KIDDO.
CARROTIA THE RABBIT
WITCHCARTER
FALKE WULF
WITCHCARTER
BIG THE CAT
NAME SAYS IT ALL
OHHH, NO! I AM NOT DEALING WITH FREEDOM FIGHTERS TODAY! HOOLIGANS! WITCH-CARTERS! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
BADNIK HORDE! ATTACK THE CITY AND COVER US!
HOLD IT, CREAM.
BUT WE CAN'T LET THEM GET AWAY, MISTER GEMERL!
I DON'T LIKE IT, EITHER. BUT THERE'RE ABOUT A HUNDRED BADNIKS STILL IN THE CITY.
WE'VE GOT TO PROTECT THE CITIZENS FIRST!
Y-YES... OF COURSE. I'M SORRY.
GEMERL TO SKY PATROL--WHERE ARE YOU GUYS?! METAL SONIC GOT AWAY WITH THE EMERALDS AND KEYS.
I'M WITH CREAM AND BIG. WE'RE GOING TO SECURE THE CITY AND CHECK ON THE KING. I'LL TRY CALLING AGAIN WHEN THINGS ARE LESS CRAZY.


BACK ON THE SKY PATROL...
I'M GOING OUTSIDE TO SEE HOW BAD THE ENGINES ARE. SONIC--CAN YOU GRAB SOME ESSENTIALS AND--?
I DUNNO WHAT'S "ESSENTIAL"...! I'LL JUST KEEP RUNNING BETWEEN HERE AND THE ENGINES AND KEEP YOU SUPPLIED.
AH'LL COME, TOO. AH AIN'T A MECHANIC, BUT AH CAN FOLLOW DIRECTIONS.
ANTOINE, CAN YOU GET ME AN ASPIRIN? THEN I NEED YOU TO BE ON STAND-BY FOR WHATEVER TAILS NEEDS.
OF COURSE!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT CHIP, THOUGH? AND THE ARMADA? AND EGGMAN?
I THINK IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME EGGMAN KNOWS ALL ABOUT OUR PLANS TO USE THE GAIA GATE. HE'LL BE HEADING FOR APOTOS.
HE'LL NEED THE ARMADA TO DELIVER CHIP TO HIM. AND IN THE WORST CASE SCENARIO, HE'S ALREADY STRUCK MOBOTROPOLIS. HE'LL NEED THE EMERALDS AND KEYS BROUGHT TO HIM, TOO. THAT WILL TAKE TIME. TIME WE CAN USE.
"NICOLE IS GIVING EVERYTHING SHE'S GOT TO KEEP SKY PATROL GOING. LET'S NOT WASTE HER EFFORTS.
MEANWHILE, I'M GOING TO TAKE ONE OF YOUR TABLETS AND FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT TAILS DOLL KNOWS.
"ROTOR'S TEAM CAN HOPEFULLY GET US MOVING AGAIN. WE'LL TRY TO INTERCEPT EGGMAN AT THE GAIA GATE."


HOURS LATER-- IN APOTOS...
GREGORIOS GAIA SAGE
DR. EGGMAN MAD TYRANT
AHHH! RIGHT ON SCHEDULE!
tink
tink
tink
tink
I'M HAPPY TO REPORT TOTAL VICTORY, SIR. I PRESENT TO YOU THE LIGHT GAIA.
YOU! ARE! A! JERK!
WELL DONE! FOR YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT: I'VE DETECTED A G.U.N. FLYING CARRIER INBOUND. SEEMS THEY NOTICED ME, AND I CAN'T BE INTERRUPTED AT THIS JUNCTURE.
I'M SURE THE ARMADA WOULD LOVE TO SHOW THEIR AERIAL SUPERIORITY TWICE IN ONE DAY, MMM?
OH-- ABSOLUTELY!
MARVELOUS! METAL SONIC, FOLLOW!
WHAT DID YOU DO IN HERE?!
THE OLD MAN WAS LESS-THAN-FORTHCOMING WITH REVEALING THE ENTRANCE TO THE GAIA GATE. BUT I FOUND IT EVENTUALLY! HA HA HA!


BEHOLD! THE GAIA GATE! THE INTER-DIMENSIONAL HUB TO ALL THE GAIA TEMPLES! SO HANDY!
IF YOU WANTED TO STOP DARK GAIA, YOU SHOULD'VE JUST LET ME, SONIC, AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS DO IT!
OH-HO-HO! YOU MISUNDERSTAND! I WANT TO USE DARK GAIA TO FUEL THE DEATH EGG FOR ALL TIME!
I CAN'T DO THAT IF YOU SUCCEED IN SEALING IT AWAY. BUT YOU CAN'T SEAL ANYTHING IF I TAKE COMMAND OF THE GAIA TEMPLES!
I GET THE DARK GAIA ENERGY! I KEEP THE WORLD SHATTERED AND OFF-BALANCE! I CONTROL ALL THE VARIABLES!
ALL THANKS TO YOU!
N-NO... I W-WON'T ...!
NO!

RRRUMBLE!!!

MAZURI...
SHAMAR...
ADABAT...
CHUN-NAN...

SPAGONIA...
HOLOSKA...
STONE STORM-LANDS ZONE...

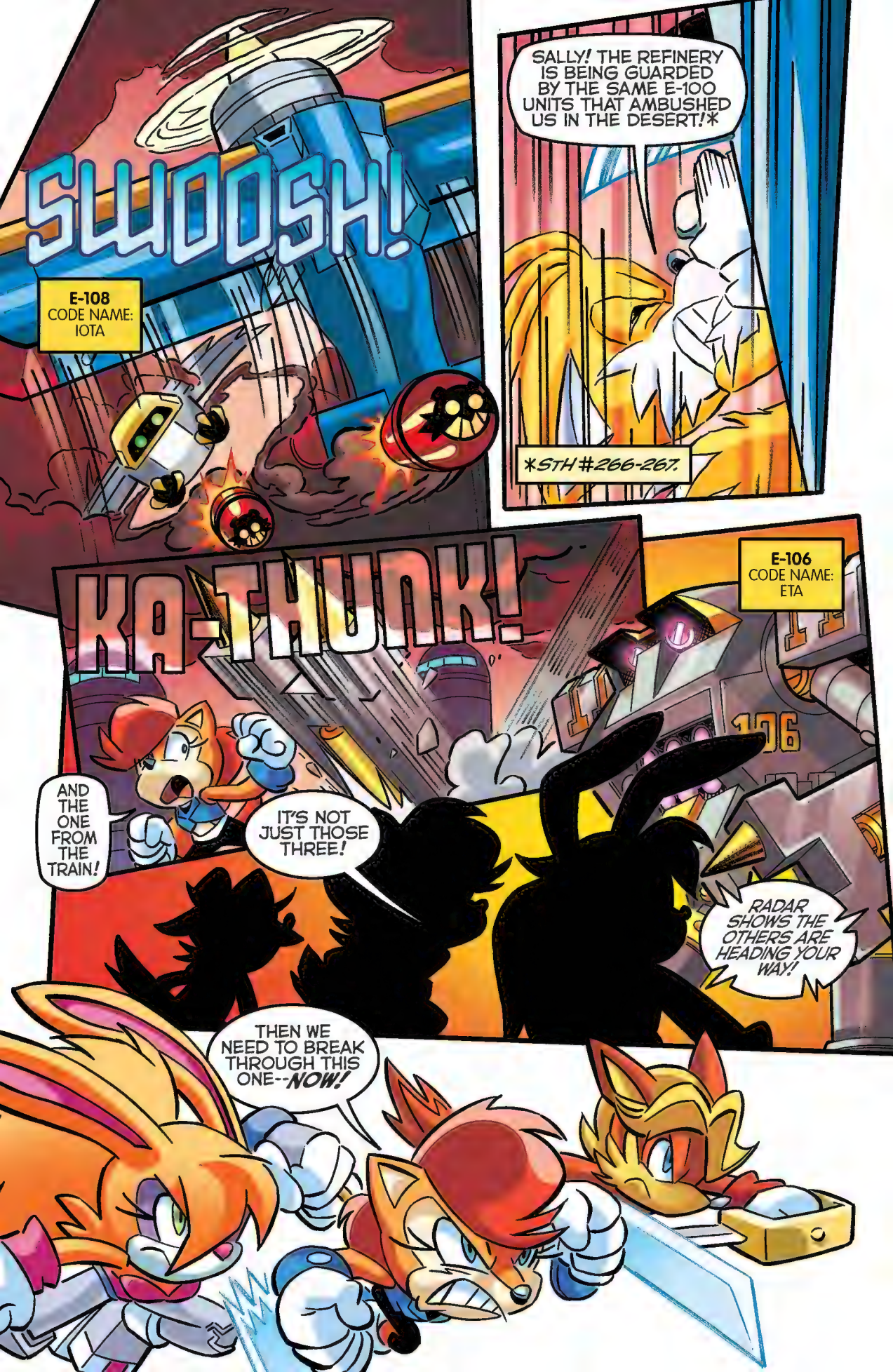
BWA-HA-HA-HA! WHEN THE GAIA MANUSCRIPTS SAID THE EMERALDS AND TEMPLES WOULD SUMMON A "GAIA COLOSSUS," I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D BECOME THE THING!
THIS WILL MAKE CONTROLLING ALL THE TEMPLES AT ONCE A PIECE OF CAKE!
S-STAY AWAY...
YOU CAN'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO, YOU LITTLE FLYING CHIHUAHUA! METAL SONIC--KEEP THIS PLACE SECURE! I'M GOING TO CHECK IT OUT!
HMM... A BIT RUSTIC, BUT I CAN APPRECIATE THE CRAFTSMANSHIP!
EEE-HEE-HEE! NOW I ALMOST WANT SONIC TO TRY TO STOP ME! THEN I CAN PUNCH HIM WITH A TEMPLE!
I'M SUPPOSED TO USE IT TO STOP DARK GAIA AND RESTORE THE WORLD!
WELL, NOT ANYMORE! NOW THE FATE OF THE WORLD RESTS SOLELY IN MY HANDS! LIGHT GAIA, DARK GAIA--BOTH NOW SERVE THE EGGMAN EMPIRE!
HAHAHAHAHA!

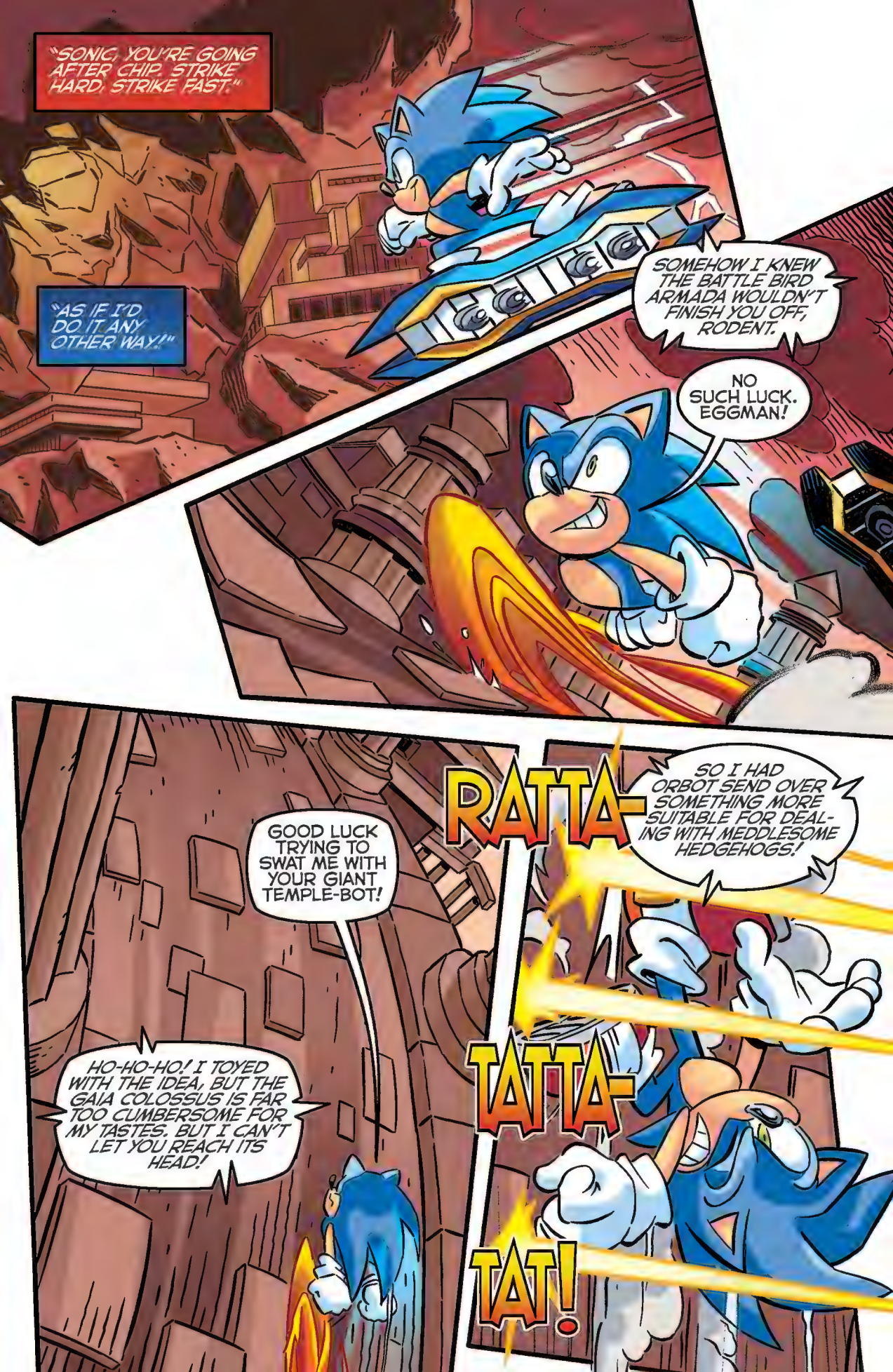
LATER--ABOARD THE SKY PATROL...
AMY, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
YEAH, LITTLE BUSY RIGHT NOW!*
ZOT!
WHAT WAS THAT?
*SU #89--"SHATTERED" PART 3, COMING SOON!
LONG STORY--SORRY, CAN YOU MAKE THIS QUICK?
EGGMAN AMBUSHED US--ON MULTIPLE FRONTS. WE'RE ABOUT TO LAUNCH A COUNTER-ATTACK. IF WE WIN, THE WORLD IS GOING TO BE RESTORED EARLIER THAN PLANNED.
OH, CRUD!
WELL... THANKS FOR THE HEADS-UP?
Blam!
GOTTA GO!
AMY! WHAT WAS--
SIGH
WAS THAT AMY? SHE AND KNUX OKAY?
I HOPE SO. THEY'RE TOUGH, I KNOW THEY CAN TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.
I ALSO GOT WORD FROM GEMERL. MOBOTROPOLIS WAS HIT HARD. DADDY GOT HURT. METAL SONIC TOOK THE EMERALDS AND KEYS.
I NEED SOME GOOD NEWS, PLEASE.
WE WERE ABLE TO SALVAGE ENOUGH MATERIAL TO GET THE PRIMARY ENGINE RUNNING. I CAN GET US ONE FAST TRIP, AND THEN THAT'S IT.
ALL RIGHT. NICOLE, COULD YOU PLEASE...
...RIGHT...
LISTEN UP. HERE'S THE SITUATION--AND THE PLAN.

I MANAGED TO DATA-MINE TAILS DOLL AND FOUND THAT DR. EGGMAN HAS BEEN GATHERING THE DARK GAIA ENERGY INTO ONE SPOT--A BASE CALLED "EGGMAN LAND."
HE PLANS TO RECHARGE THE DEATH EGG WITH THIS POWER. IF THAT HAPPENS, IT WILL BECOME UNSTOPPABLE.
G.U.N. HAS ALSO INFORMED US THAT THE GAIA TEMPLES HAVE ALL...WELL, RISEN UP AND COMBINED INTO...SOMETHING. WHATEVER IT IS, IT SEEMS IT AND THE DEATH EGG ARE HEADING TO EGGMAN LAND.
WE HAVE THREE OBJECTIVES.
ONE: STOP THE DEATH EGG FROM REACHING ITS NEW POWER SOURCE.
TWO: BREAK EGGMAN'S CONTROL OF THE DARK GAIA ENERGY.
THREE: RESCUE CHIP AND TAKE CONTROL OF THE GAIA TEMPLES.
AH TAKE IT G.U.N. AIN'T BACKIN' US UP ON THIS ONE?
THEY DON'T HAVE ANY FLYING CARRIERS NEARBY.
THE CLOSEST ONE GOT TANGLED UP WITH THE BATTLE BIRD ARMADA.
MAN, I HATE THE ARMADA.
LISTEN, EVERYONE--THIS IS IT. IF WE FAIL ANY OF THESE MISSIONS, EGGMAN WILL WIN CONTROL OF THE WORLD. HE'LL KEEP THE COUNTRIES DIVIDED. HE'LL USE THE DARK GAIA ENERGY TO POWER HIS ARMIES AND POISON THE PEOPLE.
WE HAVE TO BE READY TO RISK IT ALL TO SAVE THE WORLD. I KNOW I'M ASKING A LOT...ASKING EVERYTHING OF YOU.
I'VE NEVER WANTED TO ASK SO MUCH OF ANY OF YOU, BUT...
FIRST, WE NEED TO DELAY THE DEATH EGG.

"ROTOR, I NEED YOU AND THE SKY PATROL TO THROW EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT AT IT."
I ALWAYS WANTED AN EXCUSE TO MANUALLY PILOT THIS BABY. "BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR," I GUESS.
NICOLE? YOU STILL THERE? WE'RE FLYING AGAINST THE DEATH EGG ON ONE ENGINE...
...AND IT'S ON ITS LAST LEG. I'D LIKE TO KNOW I'M NOT ALONE RIGHT NOW.
•2nd Red Star Ring in Reactor
•All Weapons Online
•Shields: 125%
•Aux. Power to Engine
•Let's Get Him
ALL RIGHT, THEN. HERE WE GO.

"ANTOINE, BUNNIE, TAILS AND I WILL TRY TO RELEASE THE DARK GAIA ENERGY."
BOOM!
BLAM!
"I DON'T WANT TO UNLEASH IT ON THE WORLD AGAIN, BUT WE CANNOT LET EGGMAN CONTROL IT."
POW
BRACE YERSELVES!
ZUT ALORS! ZE BADNIKS ARE POWERED BY ZE DARK GAIA ENERGY!
WE CAN'T FIGHT THEM ALL, ANYWAY! FOCUS ON HEADING FOR THE TOWER!
HOLD ON... THOSE ENERGY SIGNATURES LOOK LIKE...

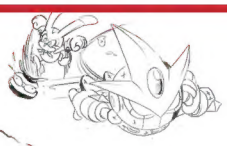

SWOOSH!
E-108 CODE NAME: IOTA
SALLY! THE REFINERY IS BEING GUARDED BY THE SAME E-100 UNITS THAT AMBUSHED US IN THE DESERT!*
*STH #266-267.
KA-THUNK!
E-106 CODE NAME: ETA
AND THE ONE FROM THE TRAIN!
IT'S NOT JUST THOSE THREE!
RADAR SHOWS THE OTHERS ARE HEADING YOUR WAY!
THEN WE NEED TO BREAK THROUGH THIS ONE--NOW!


"SONIC, YOU'RE GOING AFTER CHIP. STRIKE HARD, STRIKE FAST."
"AS IF I'D DO IT ANY OTHER WAY!"
SOMEHOW I KNEW THE BATTLE BIRD ARMADA WOULDN'T FINISH YOU OFF, RODENT.
NO SUCH LUCK, EGGMAN!
GOOD LUCK TRYING TO SWAT ME WITH YOUR GIANT TEMPLE-BOT!
HO-HO-HO! I TOYED WITH THE IDEA, BUT THE GAIA COLOSSUS IS FAR TOO CUMBERSOME FOR MY TASTES. BUT I CAN'T LET YOU REACH ITS HEAD!
RATTA-
SO I HAD ORBOT SEND OVER SOMETHING MORE SUITABLE FOR DEALING WITH MEDDLESOME HEDGEHOGS!
TATTA-
TAT!

GET A LOAD OF THIS!
EGG DRAGOON ADVANCED BATTLE ARMOR
PANIC IN THE SKY
PART TWO: FALLING INTO PLACE
WRITER: IAN FLYNN•PENCILS: DIANA SKELLY•INKS: TERRY AUSTIN•COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA
LETTERER: JOHN WORKMAN•COVER: DAN SCHOENING AND LUIS ANTONIO DELGADO
GAIA COLOSSUS VARIANT BY EVAN STANLEY
EDITOR: VINCENT LOVALLO•EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: VICTOR GORELICK
PRESIDENT: MIKE PELLERITO•PUBLISHER AND CO-CEO: JON GOLDWATER
SPECIAL THANKS TO SANDRA JO AND MAI KIYOTAKI AT SEGA LICENSING
NEXT TIME: ALL-OUT WAR! SKY PATROL VS. DEATH EGG! FREEDOM FIGHTERS VS. BADNIK HORDE! SONIC VS. EGGMAN!
UNTIL THEN, DON'T MISS OUT ON EVEN MORE ACTION IN SONIC UNIVERSE, THE SONIC SUPER DIGEST AND THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!

Letter from the EDITOR

Editorial commentary that emerged from the shadow of the colossus!



The heroes make their last stand!

What's up, Sonic readers? Actually, I'll tell ya what's up; Sonic and the Freedom Fighters are about to engage in their final assualt for the fate of the shattered world! (no pressure)

Prepare yourselves for a truly epic battle unlike anything we've seen before! Artist Diana Skelly has been doing an excellent job illustrating the high-energy and excitement of this story arc so far, check out some of her original pencil samples for this issue. Are these great or what?!

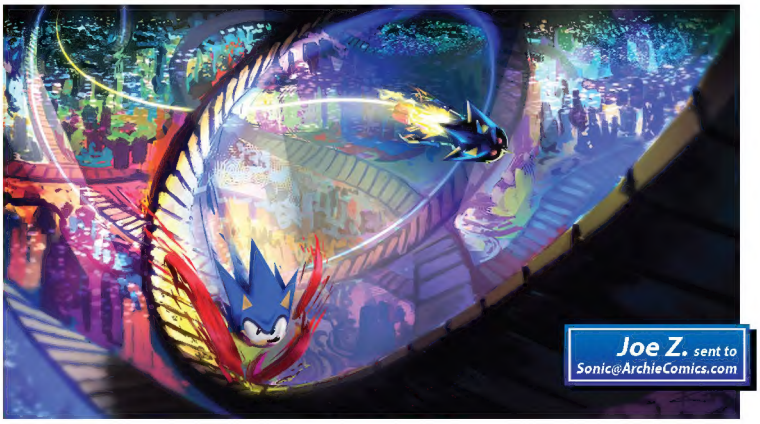
RIGHT: Pencil breakdown sample by artist Diana Skelly.

Well, that's all for now. See ya'll next time for part tres leches of "Panic in the Sky"!

– **Vincent "Vin" Lovallo**
Editor

SONIC™
THE HEDGEHOG

SONIC GRAMS FAN ART



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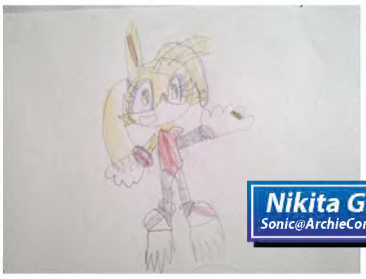

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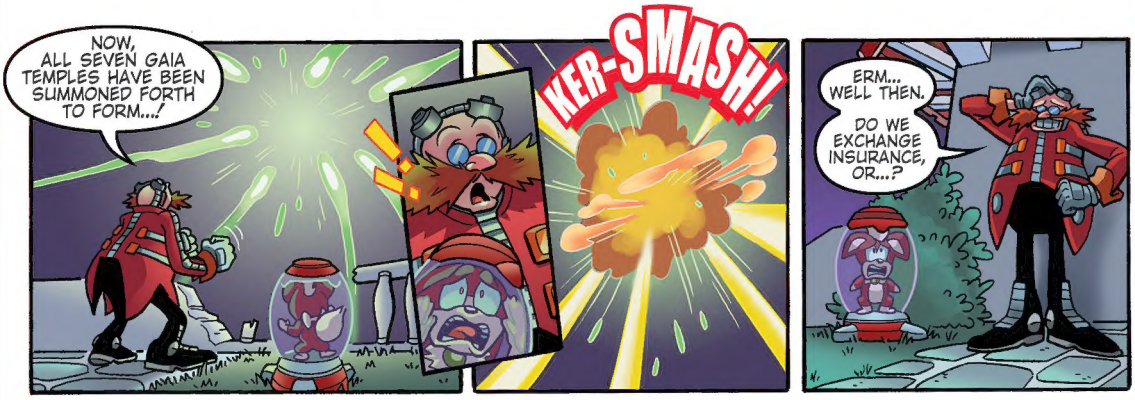
OFF PANEL A COLOSSAL MESS



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